Report and Accounts (1990-91) of the Engineering Export Promotion Council Calcutta and related papers

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Madam, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(a) Thirty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1990-91, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the Council. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1277/91 for (a) and (b)]

Assessment Report 1989-90 on the Programme and its implementation for accelerating the spread and development of Hindi and its progressive use for the various officials purposes of the Union

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAHI): Madam, I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Twenty-first Annual Assessment Report on the programme and its implementation for accelerating the spread and development of Hindi and its progressive use for the various official purposes of the Union, for the year 1989-90. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1109/91].

Re. Governments talks with service Doctors

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : (बिहार) : महोदया, मैं चाहता हूं कि फोतेदार साहब सदन में बैठे रहें, इसलिए कि हम लोगों को डाक्टरों का मामला उठाना है। यदि फोतेदार साहब चले गये, तो फिर जवाब नहीं मिलेगा और यह सत्र समाप्त हो जायेगा। ... **(व्यवधान)**

इसलिए आपकी अनुमति से मैं इनसे यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इन्होंने दोनों सदनों में यह आश्वासन दिया था कि देश में जो डाक्टरों की हड़ताल चल रही है... **(व्यवधान)**

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): I am also on the same thing... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order, please... (*Interruptions*)...

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : उन्होंने यह कहा था कि इस सत्र के समाप्त होने से पहले हम सत्र में इस बात की घोषणा करेंगे कि जो डाक्टरों के बारे में सिफारिशें हुई हैं उनके संबंध में सरकार क्या सिफारिशें करने जा रही है।

महोदया, मैं दुख के साथ कहना चाहता हूं कि यह पढ़े-लिखे लोग जोकि हर तरह के रोगों से झूझते हैं, आज स्वयं बेचारे डाक्टर रोगग्रस्त हैं, अस्वस्थ हैं और गांधी जी की समाधि पर उन्होंने कल से धरने का कार्यक्रम शुरु कर दिया है और वह आमरण अनशन भी करने जा रहे हैं।

महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से फोतेदार जी, जो भारत सरकार में स्वास्थ्य मंत्री हैं, उनसे अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं कि सदन में वह हमें यह बतायें कि उन्होंने क्या कार्यवाही की है और सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रही है ? क्या आप इतनी बड़ी समस्या को अधर में लटके हुए छोड़ देंगे, यह हमारा अनुरोध है।

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Madam, the entire House is concerned about this... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, I want to raise an important issue... (*Interruptions*)... In today's "Indian Express" it has been reported... (*Interruptions*)... that the previous Government withdrew under pressure... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order, please... (*Interruptions*)...

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलूवालिया (बिहार) : महोदया, डाक्टर जब स्ट्राईक पर गये थे, तो इस सदन ने अपील की थी और इस सदन की अपील पर उन्होंने अपनी स्ट्राईक वापिस ली थी।

महोदया, कल से वह आमरण अनशन पर बैठे हुए हैं । आपके माध्यम से मैं स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि आज तक उनकी मांगों के बारे में क्या किया गया है, तथा उनकी मांगें कब तक मानी जायेंगी ? वह सदन को बताने की कृपा करें ।

इस सदन की अपील पर उन्होंने अपनी स्ट्राईक वापिस ली थी और आज यह बड़ा दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण दिवस है कि वह आमरण अनशन पर बैठे हैं । . . . (व्यवधान)

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (हरियाणा) : इस सदन में स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी ने कहा था कि डाक्टरों के बारे में . . . (व्यवधान)

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी यहां पर हैं । कृपया आप निर्देश दें कि स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी कि स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी बतायें कि आज तक डाक्टरों की हड़ताल के बारे में क्या सोचा है और क्या ब्यौरा है ? कम से कम सदन को पता लगे ताकि यह सदन विभ्रांत न रहे . . . (व्यवधान)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan): Madam, you can call everybody into your Chamber and you have to work out a compromise... (*Interruptions*)... These doctors are on strike... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I want to say something on this... (*Interruptions*)...

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : महोदया, आप मंत्री जी से जानकारी दिलवा दें . . . (व्यवधान)

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ भीम अफजल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : चैयरमैन, पूर्ण राज्य सभा ने डाक्टरों से अपील की थी . . . (व्यवधान) कि वे अपनी स्ट्राईक वापिस ले लें . . . (व्यवधान) लेकिन स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी यहां पर मौजूद हैं, उनको बताना चाहिए . . . (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : आप बैठेंगे, तो स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी कुछ बोलेंगे । If all of you are speaking simultaneously, how can he speak? If you sit down... (*Interruptions*)

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ भीम अफजल : मंत्री जी को बताना चाहिए . . . (व्यवधान)

†[श्री محمد افضل عرف بھیم افضل : وزیر جی کو بتانا چاہئے . . . (مداخلت)]

उपसभापति : आप जरा बैठिए, स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी ने सुना है, वह वापस भी जा रहे थे, वह तो जा रहे थे

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The Minister has already taken some steps. Let him tell the House what he has done. (*Interruptions*)

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : यह जरा बताने की कृपा करें, जरा रिएक्ट करेंगे ।

उपसभापति : रिएक्ट करेंगे सभी चुप हो जाएं तभी तो रिएक्ट करेंगे । (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): Madam Deputy Chairman, I have always maintained the respect and dignity of this House but I have also respected the initiative taken by the respected leaders belonging to different political groups in this House and the commitments I have made on the floor of the House or outside. I stand by them not only in letter but also in spirit.

AN HON. MEMBER: What have you done?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: Just a minute. Have the patience of a patient as I have. (*Interruptions*)

I am concerned more about the patients than about those who treat them. (*Interruptions*) You follow my point? (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

(*Interruptions*)

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

बोलिए बोलिए आप अभी डिस्टर्ब मत कीजिए अगर ऐसा कंसर्न है डाक्टरों के बारे में तो मंत्री जी को बोलने दीजिए ताकि ताकि आपके कुछ सवाल हों तो कर सकें।

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: Madam, I had the privilege of meeting some of the hon. Members, leaders of Opposition, in my Chamber. And in their presence I met doctors.

I made two commitments. And I repeat, reiterate and reaffirm these commitments. One, that I will examine their case with an open mind; I will discuss their case with an open mind and sympathetically. Second, that there will not be victimisation against them. These are the two things I have said. And I stand by that. About third commitment that during this session it will be finalised, so far as my memory goes or as per record of the House, I do not think I have made any such commitment either inside or outside. What I am going to say is that I had the opportunity of meeting a delegation of doctors. Some came in a big deputation, and there I wanted that only a few of them should come pinpointing what are their maximum demands. I listened to them as patiently as a patient would in any institute listen to the doctors.(*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: They are very impatient.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: They may be impatient, but I am not impatient. I have patience. So I listened to them and I appointed a committee of two persons to examine their case in greater depth. But the two persons chosen had to be changed at their instance. So I appointrd a three-man committee: Additional Secretary, Mr. Dayal; Additional Director- General of Health Services Dr. Mukherjee; and Mr. Hariharan, Deputy Secretary. Three people are examining it. The difficulty was that unfortunately the case pertains to the patients' care. For three days, the Additional Secretary was confined to bed. Unfortunately again, for three days during this week, the Health Secretary is also confined to bed. You follow my point? I can say only one thing that the temperature has come down, but this virus infection is having some infection here and there. I have to improve things. What I can say is that nobody need go on fast though fasts help so far as health is concerned. But I can assure the hon. Members again that I stand by two things very firmly, very clearly, very honestly, and very faithfully that I will examine their case with an open mind...

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): When?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: I am examining. And the second thing is, no victimisation.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT (Madhya Pradesh): Sadarsahiba, after all this, so many weeks have passed but it does not take us anywhere. We cannot even imagine what is the content of your sympathic consideration, we cannot imagine the distance that you have covered through your open mind. We are where we were on day one. It is very sad. Most of all. I am sorry, you have impressed upon us a number of times that you have not made this commitment, you have not made that commitment. Okay. We have accepted it. But the basic thing was that you should have put the doctors at least in good humour. You should have given them a feeling that their case is going to be considered in a sympathetic manner. Unfortunately, it is not this feeling which has been conveyed to them quite to the contrary, they have had a feeling that they have been treated roughly which is extremely sad and totally against the understanding of this House and the understanding which was given to this House last time when we spoke. It is very sad.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: It is contempt of the House.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Madam Deputy Chairman... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will allow you, Mr. Upendra.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : महोदया, आज तक जो चर्चा डाक्टर्स और अफसरों के साथ हुई है, उसमें दुर्भाग्य की बात यह है कि स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय में कुछ ऐसे अफसर हैं जिन्होंने कि डाक्टर्स के बारे में बड़े ही ऊल-जलूल शब्दों का प्रयोग किया था । कुछ डाक्टर्स के बारे में कहा था कि ये डाक्टर्स लुटेरे हैं। महोदया, वह बड़े उच्च पदासीन अफसर हैं और वह अफसर निगोशिएशन टेबिल पर डाक्टर्स के साथ बैठेंगे तो उन्हें क्या न्याय मिलेगा ? महोदया, सन् 87 में भी उन के ऐसे रिमार्क्स के कारण डाक्टर्स स्ट्राइक पर चले गए थे । उस समय उन अफसरों को ट्रांसफर कर दिया गया था । वह फिर घूम फिरकर स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय में पहुंच गए हैं और ये जब नेगोशिएशन टेबिल पर बैठते हैं तो फैसला नहीं हो पाता है । महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदया से गुजारिश करना चाहता हूं कि इस सदन ने, सदन के हर सदस्य ने डाक्टर्स की तकलीफ को समझते हुए और जनता की तकलीफ को समझते हुए एक अपील की थी और इस सदन की अपील पर, किसी व्यक्ति विशेष की अपील पर नहीं, डाक्टर्स ने इस सदन की गरिमा को ध्यान में रखते हुए अपनी स्ट्राईक विद्ड्रा की थी और आज जब स्ट्राइक विद्ड्रा किए हुए उन्हें इतना टाइम हो गया है, इस हाउस की भी दस सिटिंग्स हो चुकी हैं, लेकिन कोई निचोड़ नहीं निकला है और किस्सा वहीं-का-वहीं है । आज उन्होंने अपनी जनरल बॉडी की बैठक में डिसीजन लिया है और आमरण अनशन पर बैठे हैं । इसलिए महोदया, आप गवर्नमेंट को डायरेक्ट करें कि इस सदन के एडजर्न होने से पहले इसका फैसला होना चाहिए क्योंकि सदन के एडजर्न होने के बाद अगर फैसला होता है तो फिर डाक्टर्स स्ट्राइक पर जाएंगे महोदया, यह सदन की गरिमा का सवाल है । सदन ने अपील की थी और सदन के कहने पर उन्होंने स्ट्राइक विद्ड्रा की थी, इसलिए इसका फैसला सदन के एडजर्न होने से पहले होना चाहिए ।

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, मुझे भी बोलने का आदेश दीजिए ?

उपसभापति : हां, आपको बोलने देंगे ।

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Madam, this House, all of us... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot permit everybody to speak on the same issue. The sense of the House can be spoken of by one or two people, those people specially who sat ... (*Interruptions*)...with the Minister in negotiation. I know, Mr. Sikander Bakht was there. Mr. Upendra was there. Mr. Ahluwalia was there. They know the facts. So, if they have anything to say, they can say. But if we allow the whole House to speak, it is going to be the same thing, and naturally it will take more time of the House. Yes, Mr. Upendra.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: All of us have the moral responsibility to see that this issue is settled at the earliest. I have been in touch with the Minister regularly. I know he is sympathetic towards them. But official level talks will not help because several times such official level talks were held and the issue was not settled. Only the Minister can solve it. And I am sure, with his political sagacity, he can settle the issue in two or three days. I don't know why it should have taken so many weeks to settle it.

Secondly, the hon. Minister said that there is no victimisation. So far nothing has been decided about the strike period. Normally, this period is adjusted against the leave that is due. But that has not been done. Doctors have not even received their salaries so far. I don't know what else it is if it is not victimisation. I suggest that the hon. Minister should see that salaries are paid to the doctors. He should also see to it that the strike period is adjusted against the leave due. Hon. Minister can take a meeting and I am sure he can settle the issue before the House adjourns.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : माननीय उपसभापति जी, इस सदन के सर्वदलीय सांसदों के आग्रह पर आपके अनुरोध पर मंत्री महोदय

[डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय]

ने प्रस्ताव पर यह आश्वासन दिया था कि इन डाक्टरों की हड़ताल जिन मांगों को लेकर है उनमें जो करणीय मुद्दे हैं, उन पर कार्यवाही की जाएगी । फिर डाक्टर स्ट्राइक पर चले गए । तीन आदमियों की कमेटी मंत्री महोदय ने बना दी अपने आफीसर्स की । एक सबसे बड़ा प्रश्न जो है, जो स्पेशलिस्ट डाक्टर हैं और जो इन डाक्टरों की हड़ताल है, उनमें मतभेद हैं क्योंकि किसी हायर-सेकेंडरी स्कूल के अध्यापक को वाइस-चांसलर के पद पर यूनिवर्सिटी में नहीं बैठा सकते । तो क्लीयरकट उनकी जो मांग है, उनमें डाक्टरों को सारी सुविधाएं मिलनी चाहिएं, इसमें किसी की दो राय नहीं हो सकती । न तो सरकार इससे असहमत है, न हम सांसद असहमत हैं, न देश की जनता असहमत है । जो भी करणीय मांग है, जब बोल दिया गया सरकार की ओर से तो उसकी पूर्ति की कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए । . . . (समय की घंटी) . . . सरकार को कुछ ऐसा ठोस निर्णय करना चाहिए और जो डाक्टर लोग प्राइवेट प्रेक्टिस करते हैं गवर्नमेंट सर्विस करते हुए उन पर भी ध्यान जाना चाहिए, एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव लेवल पर कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए । लेकिन जो सचमुच गरीब जनता के हित में डाक्टर सेवाएं अर्पित करते हैं और उनके साथ अन्याय हो रहा है, उसमें कमेटी बैठ जाए, सांसदों को बैठा दें . . .

उपसभापति : पाण्डेय जी । . . .

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय: मैडम, मैं अंत कर रहा हूं । जो डाक्टर का वह पक्ष है, जो असंतुष्ट हैं, उनके प्रतिनिधियों को बैठाकर एक सप्ताह के भीतर कोई न कोई निर्णय किया जाए ताकि स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय कुछ ऐसा करे, जिससे गरीब जनता के हित में चिकित्सा की व्यवस्था हो सके और डाक्टरों की हड़ताल समाप्त हो सके । . . . **(व्यवधान)** . . .

उपसभापति : देखिए, अभी मंत्री जी बैठे हैं । आप जवाब देना चाहेंगे, जो रिएक्शन हुई है इस सिलसिले में । . . . **(व्यवधान)** . . .

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : मैडम, उधर से भूमिका उपसंहार प्रस्तावना सब बोल देते हैं पूरी पूरी मगर इधर मौका नहीं मिलता । . . . **(व्यवधान)** . . .

उपसभापति : आप भी बोल दीजिए, मुझे कोई एतराज नहीं है । मगर, सवाल यह है कि हाऊस का समय दूसरी चीजों में होना चाहिए । . . .

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : हाऊस का समय वह ले सकते हैं, लेकिन जब इधर के लोग उठते हैं तो हाऊस के समय की बात आती है । . . .

उपसभापति: आपकी पार्टी के बोल चुके हैं लीडर । आप बोलिए, मुझे कोई एतराज नहीं है ।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल: हमारी पार्टी को आपने बोलने का मौका नहीं दिया ।

उपसभापति : पार्टीवाइज सवाल नहीं है । आप बैठिए । केवल ए क को मे एलाऊ कर सकती हूं । बोलिए, आप महिलाओं से बोल दीजिए ।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : मुझे केवल एक बात कहनी है, महोदया । . . . **(व्यवधान)** . . .

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह (बिहार) : आप हाऊस में भी महिला पुरुष करेंगी . . . **(व्यवधान)** . . .

उपसभापति : बड़े अफसोस की बात है कि कोई सीरियस मामला इस हाऊस में चल ही नहीं पाता । अगर चेयर से एक लफ्ज भी बोला गया तो उस पर टिप्पणी करने लगते हैं । किसी वजह से किसी को एलाऊ करना . . . **(व्यवधान)** . . . बड़ा दुख होता है इतने सीनियर मेम्बर होकर इस तरह की बातें करते हैं । अगर आपको डिसकस नहीं करना तो मत करिए । मुझे कोई एतराज नहीं है । . . .

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त : मैडम नाराज मत होइए । . . .

उपसभापति : नहीं नाराजगी की बात नहीं है । . . .

It is a serious matter. It should be taken in the same spirit. It is not a question of laughing. If you want to laugh, you can have one day only for jokes. (*Interruptions*). I will be very happy.

SHRI MENTARY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, there is discrimination.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no discrimination.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : महोदया, मुझे केवल एक बात कहनी है कि पिछली बार डाक्टरों की हड़ताल हुई थी तो उससे संबंधित एक प्रश्न के जवाब में जवाब देते हुए स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने यहां कहा कि था कि "यदि कोई डाक्टर अपनी हड़ताल वापिस ले लें तो वे खुले दिमांग से उस पर बात करने के लिए सहमत हैं।" ... (**व्यवधान**) ...

श्री एम०एल० फोतेदार : खले दिल से।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : खुले दिल से भी ! चलिए और अच्छी बात है। खुले दिल से और खुले दिमांग से उस पर बात कर सकते हैं।

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: You should provide proof that you possess both.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : उस समय भी मेरा यह मत था कि बात-चीत करने के लिए हड़ताल वापिस लेने की पूर्व शर्त लगाना सरकार की हठधर्मिता का परिचायक है। उनके अड़ियल रूख को दर्शाता है। लेकिन सदन में स्थिति की नजाकत को देखते हुए और मरीजों की दिक्कतों को ध्यान में रखते हुए खुद बीच में पड़कर यह अपील की थी कि डाक्टर हड़ताल वापिस ले लें। यह सदन की प्रतिष्ठा का नहीं, विश्वसनीयता का सवाल है। कल को कोई भी हड़ताल होगी और यह सदन अगर कल को कोई अपील करेगा तो कोई भी हड़ताली कर्मचारी उसको वापिस नहीं लेगा अगर इस सदन की विश्वसनीयता इस मसले में नहीं रखी गई। यह इस हाऊस की क्रेडिब्लिटी का सवाल है। अगर इस बार सदन की विश्वसनीयता नहीं रखी गई तो आगे से कोई हड़ताली कर्मचारी इस सदन की बात नहीं सुनेगा। इसलिए मेरा केवल इतना निवेदन है स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी से कि जिस खुले दिमाग और खुले दिल की वे बात कर रहे हैं,

'I am examining; I will examine'.

इससे यह मसला हल नहीं होगा, बल्कि सदन की विश्वसनीयता को सामने रखते हुए इस सदन का सत्रावसान होने से पहले-पहले आप इस मसले का हल निकालिए ताकि इस सदन की विश्वसनीयता बनी रहे। मुझे उनसे सिर्फ यही कहना है।

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी, आपको कुछ बोलना है इस पर। ... (**व्यवधान**) ...

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मी मअफजल : मैडम, मैं सिर्फ एक बात आपके माध्यम से ... (**व्यवधान**) ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That matter is closed now.

श्री सैयद सिब्ते रजी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैडम, मेरा मामला भी स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय से ताल्लुक रखता है। उत्तर प्रदेश में इस साल कई सौ लड़कों के एम.बी.बी.एस. और बी. डी. एस. में इम्तिहान लिए जाने के लिए प्रवेश की परीक्षाएं हुई थीं। भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार के आने के बाद न जाने किन कारणों से, क्योंकि यह अखिल भारतीय कंट्रोल से ताल्लुक रखता है, वह सारी की सारी परीक्षाएं निरस्त कर दी हैं। सैंकड़ों बच्चे अपना दाखिला नहीं ले पाए हैं, उनका भविष्य खतरे में है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि स्थिति क्या है और वे किस स्तर पर उस मामले में इंटरवीन कर रहे हैं ? क्या उसमें कोई जांच कर रहे हैं कि पक्षपात के कारण वे सारी परीक्षाएं रद्द की गई हैं ? यह बच्चों के भविष्य का सवाल है। पूरा एक साल कई सौ लड़कों का, जो एम. बी. बी. एस. और बी.डी. एस. में हिस्सा लेना चाहते हैं, उनका खराब हो रहा है। मैं मंत्री जी से

[श्री सैयद सिब्ते रजी]

जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या वे इन्क्वायरी करेंगे जिससे बच्चों का भविष्य सुरक्षित हो सके ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Calling-Attention to matter of urgent public importance. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय: मैडम, मैं मंत्री जी से मांग करता हूं कि उत्तर प्रदेश में जो मैडिकल परीक्षाएं ली जाती हैं, उसमें भारतीय जनता पार्टी के लोग अपनी पार्टी के लोगों को एडमिशन दिलवाना चाहते हैं। यह मामला बहुत गंभीर है । . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

उपसभापति: बैठिए पाण्डे जी, । . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय: और उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को निर्देश दें। . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . . और ईमानदारी से प्रवेश हो सके ।

उपसभापति: पाण्डे जी, बैठिए ।

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, हजारों बुनकर सूत की कमी के कारण और जो उनके दाम बढ गए हैं उनको लेकर बोट क्लब पर धरना दे रहे हैं, लेकिन . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

SHRI NARAYAN KAR (Tripura): Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very important matter. This is regarding the gang-rape in Tripura. The Supreme Court appointed Mr. S. C. Deb as the Commissioner. Mr. Deb submitted his report to the Supreme Court. Madam, kindly permit me to read from the Commissioner's report.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What report?

SHRI NARAYAN KAR: This is the report of the Commissioner appointed by the Supreme Court, regarding the gang-rape at Ujanmaidan, in Tripura. The Commissioner, Mr. Deb, has said in his report I quote:

"Some jawans of the Assam Rifles had gang-raped at least Radhika, Banapati, Sonakali, and Subhalaxmi, and raped Pravati and Laxmiti, and a jawan of the Assam Rifles had molested Panchalaxmi, in Ujanmaidan, during 31st May-2nd June, 1988.

The State of Tripura and the Army officers are trying to hush up the aforesaid crimes, and the police investigation has proceeded in that direction."

This is the report of the Commissioner. Madam, keeping this in view, the State Government has no moral right to continue in Tripura. Here in Delhi it is the same Congress Party which is ruling. . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

श्री राम नरेश यादव : महोदया, बुनकरों के सामने आज गम्भीर संकट पैदा हो गया है । आठ हजार बुनकर रोज बोट क्लब पर धरना दे रहे हैं और आगे भी आंदोलन करना च हते हैं । . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

SHRI NARAYAN KAR: I request the Home Minister to react.

. . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

श्री राम नरेश यादव : आज पूरे देश में सूत की कमी है और उसके दाम जिस तरह से बढे हैं, उसको लेकर के पिछले दिनों सदन में चर्चा भी हुई थी । . . . (**व्यवधान**) मामला बहुत गम्भीर है, महोदया, इसलिये आज बुनकर बहुत मजबूर हैं । वे भूखमरी के कगार पर जा रहे हैं । . . . (**व्यवधान**) आगे भी और आंदोलन करने जा रहे हैं । इसलिये आपके माध्यम से सरकार से मेरी मांग है कि बुनकरों की समस्या की तरफ सरकार जल्दी ध्यान दे . . . (**व्यवधान**)

SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Madam. . . (*Interruptions*) . . . The Home Minister should make a statement.

श्री राम नरेश यादव : ताकि जो बुनकर आंदोलन करने जा रहे हैं वह आंदोलन पर नहीं जा सकें और भूखमरी के कगार पर नहीं पहुंच सकें , यही आपके माध्यम से सरकार से हमारा निवेदन है ।

SHRI NARAYAN KAR: The home Minister is here... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: What is the Home Minister doing? Has that Government a right to exist?... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : महोदया, यह घटना देश के लिये शर्म की बात है ।. . .(व्यवधान) त्रिपुरा सरकार सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश को भी नहीं मान रही है ।. . . (व्यवधान) उज्जैन मैदान में जो गैंग रेप हुआ है त्रिपुरा सरकार उससे इंकार करती रही थी, जबकि सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा जो कमिश्नर भेजा गया था उसने घटना की पुष्टि की है . . . (व्यवधान)

लेकिन इसके बावजूद भी सरकार द्वारा कोई एक्शन नहीं लिया जा रहा है । यह घटना देश के लिये कलंक की बात है ।. . . (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : अगर आप चुप होंगे तो मैं कुछ बोलूंगी । आप सब लोग पहले बैठ जाइये ।

...(*Interruptions*)... Please sit down... (*Interruptions*)... In the House if twenty matters are being raised to this manner, we cannot ask the Minister to react every time. The Minister has heard him; let him find out and he will react at the appropriate time... (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: The Minister is here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister is here but he doesn't know, perhaps. He doesn't know what you are talking about. You didn't give notice... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: It is a matter of shame.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: When everybody speaks at the same time, it is very difficult, for me also to understand what the matter is. That is why... (*Interruptions*)... Again you are speaking. Just let me say... (*Interruptions*).

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): I didn't hear anything at all.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister says he didn't even hear, he didn't hear anything... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: All right, let him hear me or one minute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will repeat it... (*Interruptions*)... just a minute. He is referring to a report submitted by some Commissioner appointed by the Supreme Court regarding some gang rape in Tripura. This is the matter. So, Mr. Minister, you make a note of it and find out. Okay, that is over. Don't get agitated... (*Interruptions*)... Shri Gurudas Das Gupta... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI (Gujarat): Madam, here is a news item... (*Interruptions*)... Madam, it is a very, serious matter... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Madam, my friend here says that it is a very serious matter. Kindly hear him.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: The news item is, a Swiss multinational company may take over our Customs evaluation and verification... (*Interruptions*)... Madam, we are selling the sovereignty of the country and it will cost us... (*Interruptions*)... It is very serious. (*Interruptions*)... The honourable Minister is here. It is a serious matter. Here the sovereignty of the country is involved... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. The matter, as I was informed by the Secretariat, was raised in a Special Mention by Mr. V. Narayanasamy—the same thing.

...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Madam... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: We are selling the country...

...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: A number of Members raise Special Mentions, but it does not mean that this House is not competent to discuss them. It is not a question of a Special Mention.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Madam, we are selling the country and it is a question of the very existence of the country.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Is not the House competent to discuss this issue?

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: We must have a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this. I do say, whatever the Government wants to do, let them do after the Parliament discusses... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, as you have rightly pointed out, the hon. Member, Mr. Narayanasamy, did raise the issue yesterday.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, On the 16th.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: It was not noted properly by the House. Therefore, there is a need for the House to take a serious note of the issue because it constitutes a kind of invisible invasion into the sovereignty of our nation. There is a need for the Finance Minister to come forward and clarify it. I would request the Chair to direct the Government in this regard.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Madam, this is a serious matter.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Madam, this is serious.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have raised it. It is enough. Let us go ahead... (*Interruptions*)

I will not permit anyone else now.

Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: The taxation power is being given away to a multinational. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anybody speaking without my permission will not go on record.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI:*

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAI:*

SHRI T. R. BALU:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will not permit it. It is not going on record. Nothing is going on record... (*Interruptions*)

I will not permit it any more. Please go back to your seat.

श्री **सिकन्दर** बख्त : सदर साहिबा, मैं यह कहता हूं कि यह ठीक है कि स्पैशल मैशन हो गया , बड़ी स्क्रेटी प्रेसेंस में हुआ है इससे कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता । मैं कहता हूं कि सब्जैक्ट इतना महत्वपूर्ण है कि इस पर हॉफ एन-आँवर डिस्कशन करवा दीजिए ।

†[شری سکندر بخت : صدر صاحبہ
میں یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ یہ
ٹھیک ہے کہ اسپیشل میشن ہو گیا-
بڑی اسکیٹی پریسیڈس میں ہوا -
اس سے کوئی فرق نہیں پڑتا - میں
کہتا ہوں کہ سبجیکٹ اتنا مہتو
پورن ہے کہ اس پر ہاف این - آور
ڈسکشن کروا دیجئے -]

उपसभापति : कल बिजनैस ऐडवाइजरी कमेटी की मीटिंग है । आप अपना प्रपोजल रख दीजिए ।

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:*

SHRI T. R. BALU:*

*Not recorded.

†Transliteration in Arabic Script.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will not allow it.

Go back, Mr. Balu. (*Interruptions*)

My ruling is over. The matter is closed.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:*

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. After my ruling, anything you are speaking is not going on record. Please sit down. I am not allowing it.

Reporters, don't write. I am not allowing anything.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, if you want to speak.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI T. R. BALU:*

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:*

SHRI T. R. BALU:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we shall take up the Calling Attention to a matter of urgent public importance. Mr. Das Gupta, if you don't speak, I will call another person. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI T. R. BALU:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Balu, don't behave like this. Please sit down. (*Interrputions*)

I am not permitting anything (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mentay, please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not issuing anything. (*Interruptions*) . .

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:*

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Go back to your seat. Don't come here. Go back to your seats. (*Interruptions*)

I will not permit you. Please go back to your seat. Once I said, "No," I would not permit.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Otherwise, I will name you. I will name the Member, I am telling you. I will be within my rights.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not the way. Please go back to your seat. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI:*

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why don't you keep your Member under control?

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I allowed him. I allowed the Member to speak. Don't speak to the Chair like this. I am going to take a very serious note of this. If the leaders are not able to control their Members, it is very bad. (*Interruptions*)* Nothing is going on record.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Madam. I am on a point of order. My friends are agitated on something which has appeared as a news item in the *Indian Express*. It is about the FERA violations.

SHRI T. R. BALU (Tamil Nadu): No... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, sit down. Please take your seat (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: If you are not going to react, we will not go from here. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Madam, the allegation is against the former Law Minister. The former Law Minister is here. He has made some statement. If the Government wants to clear the matter, I would request through you that the Finance Minister should explain as to what has happened, because... (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: Why are you diverting... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Let the Finance Minister react. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. He has heard it. What can I do? Let him react. I cannot react for the Finance Minister.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Let the Finance Minister promise that he will make a statement. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Perhaps in this din and the noise, I am sure he did not understand what you have said. Let me explain it to him. ... (*Interruptions*)... Please take your seats. ..(*Interruptions*)...Please sit down.

श्री राम नरेश यादव : देश के अंदर एक माहौल बना हुआ है... (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : आप बैठ जाइये।

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: That we are demanding is a categorical explanation and a categorical statement from the Government. This is the demand of all the parties in the House without any exception. My friends from the Congress side are also agitated over this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE D)PUTY CHAIRMAI: Mr. Finance Minister, the House is agitated over an issue and I hope you have heard about it. If you have not heard about it, I will ask one of the Members to raise the issue in a peaceful atmosphere so that you can hear it and react to it in a proper manner.

SHRI T. R. BALU: Madam, there two different issues.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One issue at a time, don't mix up. The other issue does not concern him just now. Let him finish the first issue. ... (*Interruptions*)... Just a minute, sit down. Take your seats. You don't want the Minister to reply?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam Deputy Chairman, it has already been mentioned that there is a proposal afoot to entrust the assessment on collection of customs duty to a Swiss multinational company. That multinational company will have the entire discretion to fix the tariffs to assess the value of the goods.

This is a dangerous way of handing over the entire financial system to a multi-national company.

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : पार्लियामेंट के ... (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : आप इनको बोलने दीजिए। (व्यवधान) Respect your own leader.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Therefore, we would like to know from the Finance Minister as to whether this is true. If it is true, what are the reasons for the Government to entertain such a far-reaching proposal without taking the country or the House into confidence? ... (*Interrupsions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't mix up the issue.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, this is an important matter, let him react.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): This is a fundamental issue that should be first aaddressed by the Minister. He has raised a very valid point.

The other issue is a very good issue concerning the dismissal of the DMK Government. That was a good decision of mine and I stand by it... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, I am on a point of order| There are two issue being raised here·

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order in thatt. I know it very well.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: I want your ruling.

The first issue concerns purported decision of this Government which is of concern to all of us which has been raised. Member from both the sides of the House are concerned. The Minister owes an explanation to us as to whether our sovereinty is on some danger of being bartered away. We want to hear him.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is doing it.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: The second issue is...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Afterwards. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: The second issue concerns a decision taken by the previous Government which this Government cannot reverse. I do not know what reaction they want.

SHRI T. R. BALU: We want an enquiry to be conducted.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: It is on record. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is also a matter of public important. It is a matter of public importance. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: The Minister cannot react. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: However, I am prepared to react and say that it is a very good decision of mine. (*Interruptions*)·

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Order. There is nothing in that point of order because I know there are two issues and they are two different issues.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: He cannot react on that. We want a ruling.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not giving any ruling just now. I do not have to give my ruling.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: I object. If these people want the Minister to react on the second issue, it is an important point of order. You cannot start discussing a decision of the previous Government and ask this Government to react. It is a wrong procedute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Who is doing that? There is no point or order because I have noto taken a decision. Your question is out of order. You cannot talk about something which I have not done. Please sit down. There is no point of order. I am not answerable to Members on what I am going to do next. I am in my right to do what I feel is right.

मंत्री जी , कुछ सवाल पूछे गये हैं, क्या आप जवाब देना चाहेंगे ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): Madam, the hon. Opposition Leader and some other eminent Members have raised certain issues relating to customs classification, assessment, etc. procedure. I shall

[Shri Rameshwer Thakur]

examine the matter and shall also bring this matter to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister for necessary action and clarification in due course.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Today.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: This is not what we expected. The Government cannot get away like this. If the junior Minister wants, he can go and talk to the senior Minister. But they cannot get away like this.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: These are the dictates of the IMF. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have identified Mr. Salve. He is the Deputy Leader of the House. Let him speak.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE (Maharashtra): To the extent the Minister wants some time to find out the details, the House will be willing to give him that. But let him at least give one categorical assurance here right now that under no circumstance will this Government barter away the sovereignty of this country that is all.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: There is no question of... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, please sit down.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We want him to make a statement in the House tomorrow or today after talking to the Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister is on his legs. Let him speak.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Madam, it has been made clear by the hon. Finance Minister, and I want to make it absolutely categorical, that there is no question of bartering away the sovereignty of the country or in any way compromising..... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: What does he mean by 'sovereignty of India'? What is his conception of it?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: This is not fair.

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: सदर साहिब मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि अभी फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब ने यह फरमाया है कि वे इसको एग्जामिन करेंगे। क्या जो कदम वे उठा चुके हैं वे वगैर इग्जामिन किये हुए उठा चुके हैं यह जरा मेहरबानी करके बता दें।

†[شری سکندر بخت: صدر صاحبہ -
میں یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ ابھی
فائیننس منسٹر صاحب نے یہ
فرمایا کہ وہ اسکو ایگزامن کرینگے -
کیا جو قدم اٹھا چکے ہیں وہ بغیر
ایگزامن کئے ہوئے اٹھا چکے ہیں -
یہ ذرا مہربانی کرکے بتا دیں -]

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Madam, at least, the Minister of State for Finance, in consultation with the Minister of Finance... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That matter is closed. We will take up Calling Attention to Matter of Urgent Public Importance. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Can he categorically say that he is going to make a statement before this House adjourns today? (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After an assurance was given by the Minister, that matter is closed. (*Interruptions*). It is not going record. Nothing will go on record in this matter. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, as a protest against the Minister... (*Interruptions*) We are obliged to walk out.

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*Not recorded

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, are you walking out? (*Interruption*) Shri Shankar Dayal Singh—absent. Shri Mentay Padmanabham—absent. Shri Moturu Hanumantha Rao—absent. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj—absent. Shri V. Narayanasamy—(*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Madm, I am on a point of order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No point of order, please. It is Calling Attention now.

MR. GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I have already called your name. You were not there.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I am on a point or order.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Madam, my name has been dragged in this House via a news-item of the Indian Express. If any of this matter is going to be raised, naturally, I would have been the best person to give all the facts. Of course, I took the decision and stand by that decision. The previous Government deliberately tried to harass Ajitabh Bachchan because of his being the brother of Amitabh Bachchan because Amitabh Bachchan was a challenge to Mr. V. P. Singh in Allahabad. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not allowed that matter. I cannot allow you to give an explanation when the matter is not being raised in this House.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I am not giving explanation.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Under which rule?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Under the rule of personal explanation (*Interruptions*). Everyone heard the allegaiton aginst me. There was an allegation made by the DMK Members. They have a grouse against me because I was the principal person in the Cabinet for dismissal of their Government for their anti-national activities and therefore, they have brought this issue up But the fact is that it is because of political harassment of the Amitabh Bachchan family by V. P. Singh. I saw through it and I took the decision I stand by that decision and the country should appreciate it and I know the country does appreciate it. These people could not face it. That is why they walked out.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, I called your name. You were not here.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, let me make my submission. It is for you to take the decision.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, you call the attention of the Minister and don't make a submission.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Price situation in the country and action taken by Government in the matter

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam Chairperson, I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the price situation in the country and action taken by Government in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): Madam Deputy Chairman, the price situation has remained under pressure during the current financial year as in the last year. During the first 35 weeks of the current financial year 1991-92 until November 30, 1991, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has registered an increase of 1.1 per cent compared with an increase of 8.5 per cent during the corresponding period of the last year. The sharp rise in prices during the current year is mainly due to higher